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ZNR UUUUU ZZH
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FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4374
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0074
INFO RUEHGG/UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

UNCLAS KHARTOUM 002098

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DEPT FOR AF/SPG AND IO

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREL KPKO PHUM MOPS UN SU
SUBJECT: BASHIR REITERATES OPPOSITION TO DARFUR UN PKO

¶1. Summary: Following the August 26-29 visit of A/S Frazer to Khartoum, President al Bashir and other NCP leaders have reiterated publicly the policy of rejection of UN peacekeeping forces for Darfur. The NCP organized an August 30 march in Khartoum to demonstrate opposition to the UN resolution. Government run television and radio gave prominent coverage to the comments on the rejection of UN peacekeepers. End Summary.

¶2. Sudan TV, in its 10 p.m. news on August 30, showed footage of President Bashir addressing the National Youth Conference. Repeating his government's rejection of international intervention, he stated, "We are ready to face international forces even if they enter Khartoum; we reject the British draft resolution."

¶3. The same broadcast showed footage of Vice President Ali Osman Taha inaugurating educational facilities in North Kordofan. Taha used the opportunity to deliver a speech stressing the importance of rebuilding the social fabric of Darfur and the need for unity to counter any foreign intervention.

¶4. Sudan TV news on August 30 also featured footage of the march in Khartoum organized by the NCP to dramatize and support the Government's rejection of UN peacekeepers for Darfur. Speaker of the National Assembly, Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir, was shown submitting a memo to the Deputy Director of the UN office. Protesters were shown carrying banners with slogans including: "No to Foreign Intervention", "Security Council or Council of War?", and "We will not be humiliated; We will not Obey the Americans."

¶5. In a radio broadcast on August 29, Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio included clips of President Bashir speaking at the General Sudanese Workers Trade Unions Federation. Bashir termed the Anglo-American resolution as a call for a new occupation of Sudan, adding the country was being targeted for its stability, security, and resources.

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